

There are a few points which could be improved in later editions, a tendency to repetition for example in the case histories (p. 202) and the psychiatric definitions and functions (p. 155), but in the main Dr. Collins' comments and quotations are pithy and will stay in the mind: "the industrial physician should have 'two large ears and a small mouth' ". "How can you afford not to spare the time?" (with a neurotic patient). "Your next promotion can kill you".

His "seven accident stoppers" could well go on everyone's bench or desk—or dashboard.

His neurological diagrams are humorous and clear; and finally his justifications for effective simple psychotherapy may well encourage many industrial medical officers to develop their own confidence and skill and become better—and happier—doctors for doing so.

R. F. TREDGOLD

Planning and Action for Mental Health (Proceedings of the 12th and 13th Annual Meetings of the World Federation for Mental Health). Edited by Esther M. Thornton. (Pp. 348. 20s.) London: Lewis, for the World Federation for Mental Health. 1961.

This book contains the papers and discussions presented at two Conferences of the World Federation for Mental Health held in 1959 and 1960. Although divided into two parts, each is complementary to the other, and planning and action go hand in hand.

The book begins with the progressive changes in the public and professional attitudes towards mental illness and the great advances in treatment since the eighteenth century. It recognizes the new dangers of addiction to tranquilizers and anti-depressants. It indicates how hereditary influences can be modified and that their consequences are not always inevitable.

Much space is devoted to the study of the emotionally disturbed, mentally backward, and delinquent child and adolescent, and in particular the influence of the mother and the psychological consequences of modern civilization relative to the mother who is out at work. Studies of the personality of the mother of children suffering from a variety of mental illnesses have proved valuable in prevention.

Emphasis is given to the need for better education of all concerned with the prevention and cure of mental illness and the need for more understanding by the medical, legal, and nursing professions, sociologists and anthropologists, teachers, clergy, and the like, and the co-operation of all in a planned programme.

There is little new in the section dealing with problems in industry, though a warning is given against drawing wrong conclusions from studies of group behaviour and the need for further research in this direction.

There is an excellent account of the problems of migration and immigration, and one is most impressed by the results of combined social, psychiatric, and health services in dealing with the very difficult problem of the refugee.

Recent researches in brain function and their significance in an understanding of mental illness provide a stimulating section.

The book ends with factual and helpful suggestions for enhancing mental health in the aged.

This is a book that must be read subject by subject so that its wealth of information can be grasped. It is of considerable interest to those who are specially concerned with the problems of the mentally ill and is a valuable contribution to the literature and an excellent book of reference.

J. T. ROBINSON

Microdiffusion Analysis and Volumetric Error. 5th ed. By Edward J. Conway. (Pp. xviii+467; 79 figures+38 tables. 42s.) London: Crosby Lockwood. 1962.

One method of analysing a fluid is to volatilize one component and absorb the vapour in another liquid for assay. This method is particularly useful for biological fluids. A surprisingly simple piece of glassware for doing this with very small quantities is the principal subject of the book.

Most attention is given to ammonia, total nitrogen, and urea in biological fluids, although many other determinations with the microdiffusion technique are also described. Of special interest is its application in the standard micro-Kjeldhal analysis.

The argument for microdiffusion is biased at times and its advantages are emphasized, while insufficient mention is made of alternative methods. However, the accuracy and speed of analysis are examined in great detail, and the results may be compared with those obtainable with standard methods given in other texts.

The book is well written and extremely readable. The section on errors in chemical analysis will be useful to any analyst. The bibliography and illustrations are good.

An attractive book full of ingenious ideas, particularly recommended to biochemists.

S. A. ROACH

Wound Healing. Proceedings of a Symposium organized by Smith and Nephew Research Ltd. Edited by D. Slome. (Pp. 94. 30s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1961.

This book is a collection of papers read at a Symposium on Wound Healing held at the Royal College of Surgeons.

The nine contributions come from workers in various disciplines and deal with changes which occur in the skin after wounding.

Experiments in the mouse indicate that mitotic activity is under the control of specific mitotic inhibitors and that these are locally produced by the various cell types.

The mechanism of wound contraction and its role in the repair of excised wounds in the skin is discussed and a plea is made that the natural method of wound closure should not be completely neglected by clinicians. Studies of wound contraction by another author indicate that the formation of ground substance is essential for collagen deposition. It is suggested in another paper that the relative toxicity of wound medicaments can be studied using the microspirometer in conjunction with skin tissue culture.